



Watershed Update

A contract has recently been awarded for the construction of floodwater retarding/sediment retention structure #43 in the Bear Creek Watershed. Site #43 is located in the east 1/2 of section 30 of Highland township and controls 1002 acres of run-off. Planned start date for construction is the first week of July. When built, this will be the twelfth, of fifty-two planned structures, that has been completed in the Watershed.

Last fall, the construction of Sites #16, #17, and #47 brought the total area under control by floodwater retarding structures in the watershed to 3,073 acres. When Site #43 is completed 4,075ac, or about 12% of the Watershed will be controlled by structures.

These structures are 100% cost shared with funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Small Watershed Program (PL83-566). The local sponsors of the Project; the Winneshiek Co. Soil & Water Conservation District and the Winneshiek Co. Board of Supervi-



Spring Run-off at Future Structure Site 43

sors and the Root River Soil and Water Conservation District and the Houston County Board of Commissioners are responsible for the operation and maintenance of these structures once they are installed. The local sponsors will be conducting their annual inspection/tour of the completed retarding/sediment retention dams in June. These inspections are carried out to see that the structures are

working as planned, and to check for any maintenance issues that need to be addressed.

Upland treatment practices installed in the Project area to date have protected over 1,200 acres. These projects further reduce the amount of sediment reaching the Bear Creek trout streams and prolong the life span of installed structures. The Iowa portion of the Bear Creek Project has been the recipient of Watershed Protection Fund cost-sharing through the Division of Soil Conservation, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for a number of years. These dollars have been used to supplement other available cost share programs to accelerate the installation of upland treatment practices needed in the Watershed. Upland treatment work completed utilizing these funds last year include: a livestock stream crossing, 350 feet of fencing to exclude livestock access to the Middle Bear stream corridor, 1,465 feet of stream bank stabilization/trout habitat work, 7,450 feet of terraces, 7 acres of waterway and 1 sediment and water control basin.